

REMARKS

Claims 3-20 are pending and under consideration.

In the Office Action of August 29, 2005, claims 3-20 were rejected. However, the examiner indicated that independent claim 20 would be allowable if amended to recite that:

- (1) each of the modules contains at least one carousel; and
- (2) the modules are interchangeable to different configurations to create different size machines.

Additionally, on January 12, 2006, counsel for applicant engaged in a telephone conference with the examiner regarding the cited prior art and alternative claim language and/or claim structures. Counsel thanks the examiner for her time and helpful comments.

While applicant disagrees with the examiner's assessment of the cited prior art, as a matter of expedience, and without prejudice to pursuing similar or different claims in a continuation application, claim 20 has been amended as suggested in the Office Action and as discussed with during the telephone conference. In particular, the modularity of the resultant floral dispensing machine has been made clearer. Accordingly, claim 20 should be allowed.

Regarding the objections to claims 3, 11, 12, 18 and 19, those objections have been overcome by changing the dependencies of claims 11, 12 and 18 so that no duplicate claiming exists. Accordingly, all remaining dependent claims 3-19 are allowable.

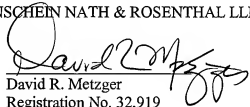
In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance with claims 3-20. Notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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